

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled, claims 18 and 20 have been amended and new claims 43-45 added. No new matter is added by virtue of these amendments. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 9 and 10 are allowed, and that claims 18, 20, 25 and 26 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 18, 20 and 42 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for depending from non-elected claims. Based on the amendments submitted herein, withdrawal of the objection is requested. For example, claims 18 and 20 have been amended to depend from claims 9 and 10 (allowed) and claim 42 has been rewritten as new independent claim 45.

Claims 18 and 42 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for reciting improper multiple dependencies. Claim 18 has been amended to depend only from claims 9 and 10 (allowed) and the subject matter of claim 42 is properly presented in new claim 45. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Mian et al. (US 2002/0137218). Applicants have elected to cancel claim 21 in order to expedite allowance of the application, thus rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

Claims 25 and 26 were objected to merely as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 21). Applicants have therefore rewritten the subject matter of claims 25 and 26 as new claims 43 and 44, again in order to expedite allowance of the application.

Lastly, Applicants also submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement. Consideration and entry upon the record of each of the references cited is requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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